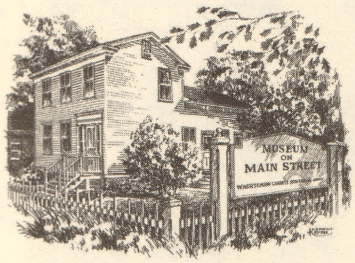
OCTOBER 2007

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857



Richard L. Galant, PhD
President

Ralph P. Beebe
Vice-President

Patricia W. Creal
Treasurer

Judith M. Chrisman
Recording Secretary

Pauline V. Walters
Corresponding Secretary

Directors
Rosemarion Blake
Ann DeFreytas
Tom Freeman
Dean Greb
Susan Kosky
Leslie Loomans
Susan Nenadic
Patti Smith, JD
Jay Snyder
Jan E. Tripp
Susan Cee Wineberg
Cynthia Yao

Directors-at-Large
Harriet A. Birch
Hon. Julie Creal
Donald Cameron Smith, MD

Museum Director
Alice Cerniglia

Endowment Committee
David LaMoreaux
Thomas F. Mich, PhD

Consultant
Louisa Pieper

Information
Published Seven Times A Year
From September-May.

Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Phone: 734.662.9092
Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web Site:
www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER • RICHARD L. GALANT, PhD

Programs Throughout the Year

Ralph Beebe, vice president on WCHS Board, schedules the Society programs throughout the year. Recently, the first program for 2007 – 2008 took place at the David R. Byrd Center on Lohr Road and featured Carol Gibson and Lola Jones speaking on the history of African Americans in Ann Arbor. The presentation was very well done and holding in the Byrd Center only added to the historical experience of the day. It should also be noted that Ms. Gibson and Ms. Jones have written a book on this topic.

For the rest of the 2007 – 2008 WCHC year, Ralph has prepared the following:

October 21

Unbuilt Buildings of the University of Michigan by Fred Mayer/University Commons on Asa Gray Drive

November 18

Art in Washtenaw County Cemeteries by Wystan Stevens/Ypsilanti District Library on Whitaker Road

February 17

Ann Arbor Buildings and Architecture by Anita Toews/ Cobblestone Farm Barn on Packard Road

March 16

Working Women's History – Prior to 1918 by Susan Nenadic/ Ann Arbor District Library on Fifth Avenue

April 20

Restoration of St. Helena Lighthouse with Scout Troup 4 by Richard Moehn/Glacier Hills – Hanson Room on Earhart Road

Note: All presentations are on Sunday and begin a 2:00 p.m.

Finally, the Board presented a *Certificate of Excellence* to Susan Kosky for her leadership work on the Society's 150th Birthday Celebration. Sue, it was a job well done!

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 25 • 7-8:30PM

Ann Arbor Cooks Exhibit Open House

The Washtenaw County Historical Society's volunteers have agreed to bake a selection of local treats, compiled from heirloom cookbooks throughout the county as well as from our own collection for the Ann Arbor District Library's Open House on Thursday, October 25th. 2007. This effort serves to highlight both institutions up coming events. The Museum on Main Street's new exhibit "Holiday Memories" (October 17 – February 9th 2008) will feature some holiday recipes that were local favorites. The library is celebrating the new recipe database that will soon be available online to the public.

Continued on page 6.

CAROL GIBSON • LOLA M. JONES

Another Ann Arbor

NOTE: *Due to technical difficulties, the notes accompanying these pictures are taken directly from the book,* Another Ann Arbor, *written by Carol Gibson and Lola M. Jones.*

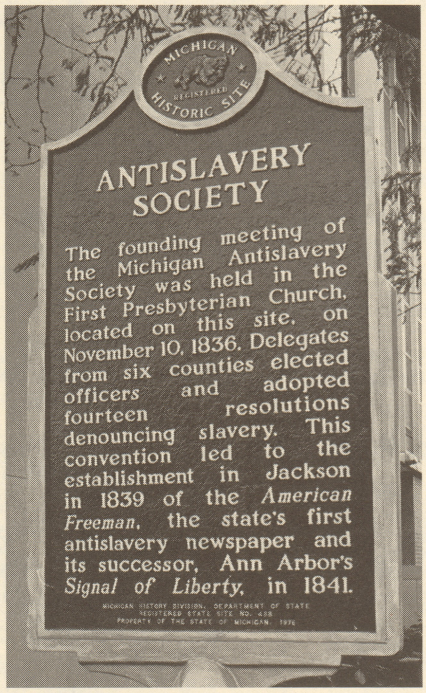
RIGHT TOP: This antislavery plaque at the *Ann Arbor News* building on Huron Street marks the site where the founding meeting of the Michigan Antislavery Society took place. The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church on November 10, 1836. Delegates elected officers and adopted resolutions against slavery. The church held a strong antislavery position. This, in part, led to a split and the formation of today's First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. *(Photo courtesy of the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor).*

1946 Tea at the Dunbar Community Center

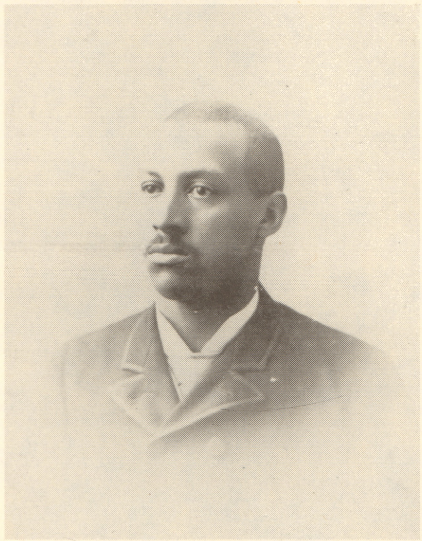
This 1946 photograph of tea at the Dunbar Community Center typifies the formal celebrations African American ladies enjoyed at the Center. They wore dressy hats and white gloves on these special, social occasions. The table was always arranged with the best silverware and china. Sometimes funds were raised to support important causes. The Dunbar Community Center was named for the renowned African American 19th century poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar. *(Photo courtesy of Ann Arbor Community Center).*

RIGHT: Mary Aray may have settled in Pittsfield Township as early as 1817. She was said to be part African American, part Native American, and French Canadian. Her mother married an enslaved man in Pennsylvania. Aray came to the area with her husband, Jacob Aray, who also was from Pennsylvania. They owned a large farm in Pittsfield Township that they bought from a land speculator in 1827. The land opened up after Native Americans were forced to sign treaties transferring their land to the US Government. The government gave or sold land to a favored few. These landowners generally resold the land, making a quick profit. Papers of Albert P. Marshall, Ypsilanti historian, identify Asher, James A., Harriet, Harvey, Jacob and Martha as some of the Aray children. Asher Aray, their first born, a noted mixed race, was an African American Underground Railroad conductor. History rarely records the deeds of blacks acting in this capacity. Asher operated out of his Pittsfield Township farm on what is now Michigan Avenue near Textile Road. The land remained in the Aray family for about 100 years. *(Photo courtesy of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum).*

In the 1830s, the Midwest became the place of choice for African Americans seeking freedom. The South imposed harsher restrictions and penalties on free and enslaved blacks. The 1831 Nat Turner rebellion struck fear in white people, which triggered a backlash against free blacks. From 1830 to 1850, over 32,500 African Americans walked to the Midwest, fueling a Great Migration. One-eighth of all free blacks lived in the Midwestern states by 1850. They traveled carrying documents to prove their status yet could be sold into slavery at any time. Midwestern states had "Black Codes", which were laws meant to discourage free blacks from settling there. These codes often required expensive payments from African Americans.



TOP: Antislavery Plaque.
BOTTOM: Mary Aray



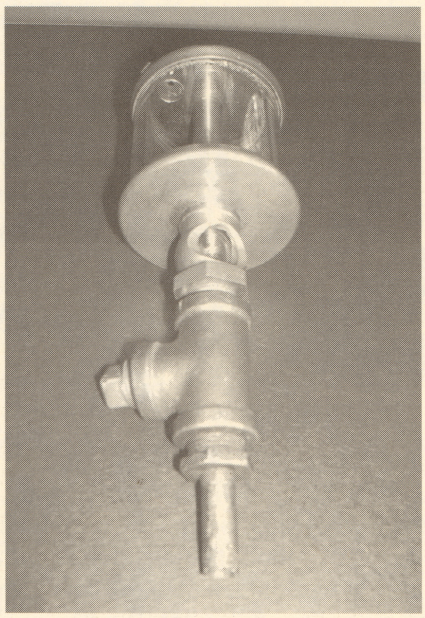
Photos courtesy of Ypsilanti Historical Museum Archives.

Elijah McCoy

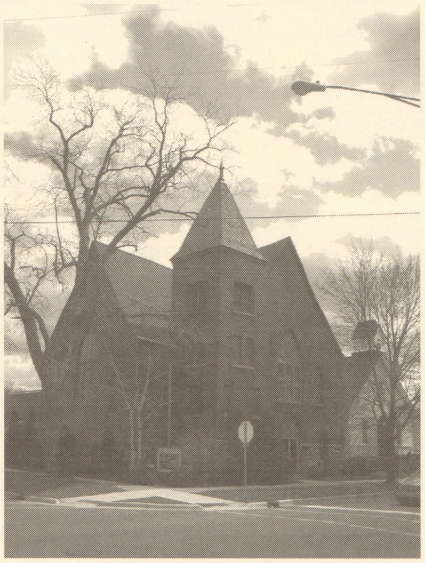
It was under these conditions that free blacks came to Washtenaw County to build their lives.

Elijah McCoy was born in Ontario, Canada, on May 2, 1844. His parents escaped slavery in Kentucky. After the Civil War, the family moved to a farm in Ypsilanti. Elijah's father, George, was a cigar maker. As he delivered cigars to Detroit, he hid escaping slaves in the false bottom of his wagon. As his business expanded, so did his covert operation. An historic marker, located at 229 West Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti, commemorates the life of Elijah McCoy. McCoy apprenticed with a mechanical engineer in Scotland. When he returned, he worked for the Michigan Central Railroad. He invented a device to lubricate train wheels. McCoy patented over 50 inventions. He often sold his patents in order to operate his business. He died in the Eloise Public Hospital in Detroit on October 10, 1929. *(Photo courtesy of Ypsilanti Historical Museum).*

Pictured here is the actual automatic oiler cup that Elijah McCoy invented in 1872. It is located in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. The device revolutionized train transportation because engineers did not have to stop the train continuously to oil the moving parts. Imitators tried to compete, but none were as good as "the real McCoy". (*Courtesy of* Another Ann Arbor, Inc.)



Automatic Oiler Cup



Old Brown Chapel

Known today as the Old Brown Chapel, this stately neo-Gothic structure stands at the corner of Buffalo and Adams Streets in Ypsilanti. Sylus Jones and Flora Thomas began holding religious services in their homes in 1843. The small congregation bought a plot of land at Adams and Buffalo Streets and held services in a frame building on the lot. In 1901, Rev. Lewis Pettiford made the decision to construct a new building. James Kearsey drew up the blueprints and supervised the construction, along with his brother, George. Weltha Sherman went all over town gathering needed bricks and other materials and brought them to the building site in her wheelbarrow. The building was completed in 1904. Auxiliaries of the church raised funds to provide pews, chandeliers, and other furnishings. The building was completed in 1904. (*Photo courtesy of* Another Ann Arbor, Inc.)

A Greek Revival-style building was the first black church in Ann Arbor. The Union Church was located at 504 High Street. It appears on the 1853 map of Ann Arbor. In 1871, a split in the congregation occurred. Out of that

First black church in Ann Arbor.

split, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Bethel AME Church) and Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor evolved. The Union church building stands today. It has been converted into an apartment house. *(Photo courtesy of African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County).*

George Henry Jewett Jr. was born in 1870 into the family of a wealthy blacksmith. Jewett could speak German, Italian and French fluently. He was captain of the debate, football and baseball teams, and he was named as the fastest sprinter in the Midwest. Jewett graduated as class valedictorian from Ann Arbor High School. In 1890, he entered UM to study medicine. Jewett was UM's first black varsity football player. He was voted cocaptain of that team and captain of the track team. In 1893, he transferred to Northwestern University where he could continue his medical studies and play football. He then practiced medicine in Chicago. Later, he opened The Valet, a successful dry-cleaning business on State Street near William Street, next to what is now First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. Jewett died of a heart attack at work in 1908. *(Photo courtesy of Bentley Historical Library).*

African Americans also benefited from UM's building boom. The campus expanded rapidly under President James B. Angell. This created an opportunity for black masons, carpenters, and other skilled laborers to find work. They constructed many of the university buildings and gracious homes of this area. Ann Arbor's African American population soared by nearly 50% between 1900 and 1910. *(Photo courtesy of Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives).*

Rev. R.M. Gilbert, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, established the Dunbar Community Center in 1923. He received financial assistance from the community fund to repair a building at 209-211 North Fourth Avenue. His purpose was to create a rooming house for workmen who came to Ann Arbor for temporary employment. The building was also used for social events. Expenses were paid from rents and membership certificates. *(Photo courtesy of the Ann Arbor Community Center).*

The Dunbar Community Center was named for the famous 19th-century poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar. It became a focal point of African American life, providing recreational activities, information, and referrals for blacks in the area. It was the forerunner of the Ann Arbor Community Center. Douglas Williams became the longtime director and pivotal community leader. *(Photo courtesy of the Ann Arbor Community Center).*

The Dunbar Community Center provided a space for teenagers to dance. Favorite dance steps included swing, the Lindy Hop, and the jitterbug. Big band music was popular, with Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Cab Calloway topping the charts. Teenagers and adults danced to the same music. *(Photo courtesy of the Ann Arbor Community Center).*

Mother and daughter are wearing the trendy Afro hairstyle of the period. Hairstyles took on a political connotation during the civil rights era. Blacks who wore their hair straight were considered to be more conservative than those who adopted the fashionable Afro hairstyle. *(Photo courtesy of Dunbar Community Center).*

George Henry Jewett

A skilled workman

Rev. R.M. Gilbert

The Dunbar Community Center

LEFT: Emma and Albert Wheeler

BELOW: The Black Action Movement (BAM) urged all students at UM to boycott classes to enforce demands for increased black enrollment.

The Center provided a space for teenagers to dance.

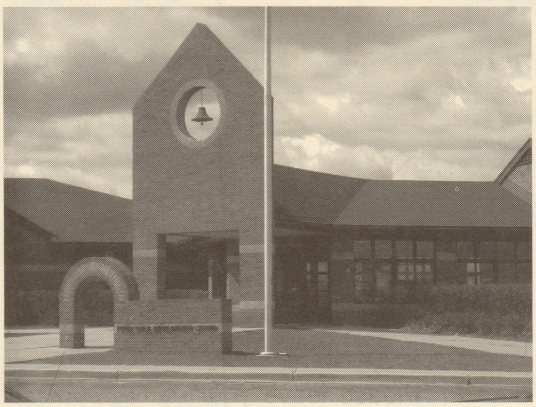
Mother and daughter are wearing the trendy Afro hairstyle.

Emma Wheeler, a lifelong Democrat, came to UM in 1938 to do graduate work. She married Albert Wheeler, a student in the School of Public Health. She was president of the NAACP from 1957 until 1973. Her emphasis was on improving housing conditions for blacks in Ann Arbor. She organized a home tour of substandard housing to give visibility to the situation. The tour coincided with the tour of beautiful homes, which took place each year. She organized a march in front of City Hall in support of a fair housing act. Largely as a result of her efforts, in 1965, Ann Arbor became the first city in Michigan to adopt a fair housing act. It forbade discrimination in the sale or renting of homes. Both Wheeler and her husband were instrumental in improving conditions for blacks in the city. *(Photo courtesy of the* Ann Arbor News).

In 1970, a coalition of black students called the Black Action Movement (BAM) urged all students at UM to boycott classes to enforce demands for increased black enrollment. They argued that the university should reflect the population of the state. The students, joined by many white and other minority supporters, obstructed the doors to Angell Hall and Hill Auditorium. "Open it up or shut it down" was the rallying cry. The black students initially brought their concerns to the administration. When no action was taken, they decided on the strike. The strike continued for 13 days. Although there was no official dismissal of classes, most students and many instructors refused to cross the picket lines set up by the black students. The most crucial support came when the unions who delivered food to the dormitories and restaurants on campus refused to cross the black students' picket lines. *(Photo courtesy of Bentley Historical Museum).*

Bryant Elementary School was opened in 1973. The school was named after Clifford E. Bryant, an extraordinary man who was a friend to students and teachers. He always wanted to be a teacher, but when his mother died,

Bryant Elementary School



Perry Child Development Center

he had to quit school. He found employment as a custodian at Ann Arbor High School in 1946. After many years, he transferred to Bryant, where he remained until his retirement in 1971. (*Photo courtesy of* Another Ann Arbor, Inc.)

Perry Child Development Center in Ypsilanti is named for Dr. Lowell C. Perry, the first black dentist in the area and the first black member of the Ypsilanti Board of Education. Because his passion lay in helping youngsters achieve, the Perry Child Development Center was named in his honor after his death. The center is part of the Ypsilanti School District and houses all preschool through second grade classes as well as a literature academy. Harriett School, originally named Adams School, was the traditional neighborhood school, which most black children attended. When the US Supreme Court mandated the end to segregated schools, the decision was made to bus all young children to one central school, which was Perry. This was in sharp contrast to what many other cities decided when they bussed only black children to obtain racial integration. (*Photo courtesy of* Another Ann Arbor, Inc.)

The inscription on the Morris Lawrence building says, in part, "Washtenaw Community College wishes to celebrate and memorialize the contributions of this very extraordinary man and to permanently keep all those associated with the college aware of the values and commitment expressed with such caring and love by Dr. Lawrence during his lifetime." (*Photo courtesy of* Another Ann Arbor, Inc.)

Morris Lawrence building

Ann Arbor Cooks

Continued from page 1

Marilynn Brass graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Arts in English-Journalism. She received a Master of Arts in English while on fellowship at Northeastern University. Marilynn has worked in public relations, community affairs and employee communications. She has also worked at WGBH, the public television station in Boston, in the production unit of **This Old House, The New Yankee Workshop, The Victory Garden.** Marilynn baked her first cake at the age of 12.

Sheila Brass, a former fashion designer, has worked in National Programming at WGBH for more than 20 years. She is an honors graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Illustration and Design. Sheila baked her first cake at the age of 11.

The Brass sisters have compiled a research library of more than 6,500 cookbooks, including dozens of manuscript cookbooks, as well as 1,500 books and periodicals on antiques and culinary history. Their collection of more than 2,000 antique food molds, kitchenware, culinary prints and menus is considered one of the finest in the United States.

Sheila and Marilynn are both members of The Culinary Historians of Boston. Frequently they act as consultants to universities, publications, television stations and antique dealers.

See enclosed postcard!

Upcoming Events October 2007

Around the Town

WCHS Board Member **Susan Nenadic** will give the Kempf House noon lecture on Wednesday, **October 31**, speaking about "Fainting Couches and Physical Fitness—the Myth and Reality Concerning Women's Health in the Nineteenth Century."

Fall Harvest, Cobblestone Farm, Sunday, October 14, 12-4 pm, Free (suggested donation of $5 supports public programs)

Celebrate the season with this 1850s living history event. Experience the delicious aroma of cooking on the wood stove. Let the kids try their hand at pumpkin painting, and enjoy cider and doughnuts. Meet costumed interpreters performing traditional autumn preparations on the farm. Visit the animals in the barnyard and play traditional lawn games for children such as hoops and stilts. Take a tour of the farmhouse and visit the gift shop. Cobblestone Farm Museum is located at 2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor. 734/994-2928.

Cobblestone Farm is an 1844 Classic Revival farmhouse, and was originally a two-family home. Benajah Ticknor, a U.S. Naval surgeon, and Heman Ticknor, Whig Politician and farmer, shared occupancy of this stone structure with their families. Being restored and interpreted to reflect its mid-nineteenth century appearance, the farm provides a view of past rural life in Washtenaw County. Today the site is administered through the Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation in a partnership with the Cobblestone Farm Association.

KEMPF HOUSE LECTURES
Wednesdays: Noon to 1:00 PM
Information: 734-994-4898

October 10 – Matthew Neagle
Google Ann Arbor: An Update on Google AdWords' Office Here

October 17 – Len Coombs
What's New at the Bentley Historical Library

October 24 – Melissa Milton-Pung
Heritage Tours in Washtenaw County

October 31 – Susan Nenadic
Fainting Couches and Physical Fitness

November 7 – Ron Schwartz
Robert Chevalier de la Salle, From Mutilation to Murder

November 14 – Kingsbury Marzolf
State Capitol Buildings

Around the County

SALINE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 PM
The Dark Side of Saline

SALEM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 PM
Salem Jeopardy at Jarvis Stone School

Beyond Washtenaw

If anyone is interested in a bus trip to Lansing to the Michigan Historical Museum on a Sunday in the fall, please contact the WCHS at: wchs-500@ameritech.net or 734-662-9092. The cost will be about $11 for transportation only. Please leave your name, contact information and availability of dates.

What Does Your Mailing Label Tell You?

The WCHS membership runs from January through December yearly. Membership letters are put into the mail in early January. The line above your name on the mailing label indicates if you are a paid member for that year: MEMBER 2007. If there is: 2007 or 2006 above your name that indicates that you are a donor that year but not a paid member.

WCHS has one fundraising mailing each year in August. An item of interest is mailed to about 1000 addresses and is our only fundraising endeavor. Many choose to donate tax-deductible monies in lieu of membership which is not tax-deductible.

All donors and members receive seven monthly newsletters and about 1000 are put into the mail each time. Post card reminders of upcoming monthly meetings are mailed the first of that month to members and donors that live in the 481xx ZIP code areas.

ALICE CERNIGLIA • MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Thanksgiving

This historic proclamation was issued by George Washington during his first year as President. It sets aside Thursday, November 26 as "A Day of Publick Thanksgiving and Prayer." Signed by Washington on October 3, 1789 and entitled "General Thanksgiving," the decree appointed the day "to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God."

While there were Thanksgiving observances in America both before and after Washington's proclamation, this represents the first to be so designated by the new national government.

After their first harvest, the colonists of the Plymouth Plantation held a celebration of food and feasting in the fall of 1621. Indian chiefs, Massassoit, Squanto and Samoset, joined in the celebration with ninety of their men in the three-day event. The first recorded Thanksgiving observance was held on June 29, 1671 at Charlestown, Massachusetts by proclamation of the town's governing council.

During the 1700s, it was common practice for individual colonies to observe days of thanksgiving throughout each year. A Thanksgiving Day two hundred years ago was a day set aside for prayer and fasting, not a day marked by plentiful food and drink as is today's custom. Later in the 18th century each of the states periodically would designate a day of thanksgiving in honor of a military victory, an adoption of a state constitution or an exceptionally bountiful crop.

Such a Thanksgiving Day celebration was held in December of 1777 by the colonies nationwide, commemorating the surrender of British General Burgoyne at Saratoga. Later, on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for the observance of the fourth Tuesday of November as a national holiday.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday to the third Thursday of November (to extend the Christmas shopping season and boost the economy). After a storm of protest, Roosevelt changed the holiday again in 1941 to the fourth Thursday in November, where it stands today.

Until this 1941 law passed by Congress establishing that Thanksgiving would be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of every November, there was no federally-established Thanksgiving Day. Presidents George Washington, John Adams, James Madison and Abraham Lincoln had each declared a specific day (or days) for the nation to give thanks, but these were one-time rather than yearly holidays. The fact that Thanksgiving Day was not established as a yearly federal holiday is reflected in this newspaper item. "Michigan Governor Issues Order for Thanksgiving Observance" Governor Warner, in accordance with a custom bequeathed to the people of this county and hallowed by long observances has designated Thursday, November 24, as a day set apart for the purpose of rendering thanks unto the Giver of every good and perfect gift that has come to us as individuals and as a people. (from *The Ypsilantian*, November 17, 1910.

That same year, the newspaper reported on the holiday celebration of a South Ypsilanti family: "Mr. and Mrs. Howard Moore entertained at Thanksgiving dinner the relatives of Mrs. Moore. Covers were laid for twenty-four. The table was artistically decorated with a large pumpkin fruit basket which looked very tempting. Individual salts were made from the ears of corn, small pumpkin baskets for salted peanuts...." (*The Ypsilantian*, December 1, 1910).

By 1910, turkeys cost 16 to 18 cents per pound in Ypsilanti (The *Ypsilantian*, November 17, 1910, "Local Markets"). In the days after Thanksgiving, Americans figure out what to do with all that leftover turkey. Washtenaw County residents at the turn of the 20th century also suffered from turkey overload, as indicated in these two "brief news items" from the November 29, 1900 *Manchester Enterprise*: "There will be no more school this week. The teachers have eaten so much turkey that they can't teach."

"There have been so many turkey raffles about town that most of our citizens might have a turkey if lucky enough to win it. Some have won two or three." That same day, the going price for a turkey in Manchester was only 8 to 8-½ cents per pound. Since not only prices but also salaries were much lower then, winning a turkey for Thanksgiving Day would have been a big help to the family budget. (*Manchester Enterprise*, November 29, 1900, "Home Market")

Rumtopf

Traditionally served over ice cream, yogurt, waffles or cake during Advent or on Christmas morning, Rumtopf is an old traditional preparation of fermented rum-soaked fruit aged in a crock pot.

Rumtopf A delicious treat of aged, rum-soaked fruit, in the German and Austrian tradition. You can also soak the fruit in bourbon, in the French tradition, or in your favorite brandy or other alcoholic beverage that is at least 80 proof though 150 proof is recommended/ (40% alcohol by volume). You can also use any fruit in season. Use one or

more, or all, of the fruit in the guide below. Traditionally, the process took months to prepare - as each type of fruit ripened and became seasonally available, it would be washed, dried, sugared, and placed in the Rum Pot. Age the mixture in a cool place for at least three months to ferment properly. It will keep indefinitely as long as it is completely covered with the rum. Then enjoy over ice cream, yogurt, cake, waffles, etc., or by itself with a topping of cream.

Rumtopf (or Rumpot) Recipe

Ingredients: Fresh, unblemished fruits, just ripe
Rum of good quality
Fine granulated sugar
Rum Pot or crock pot, washed and dried
Cellophane paper
A dish that will fit inside the pot

Fruit Preparation: If they are being washed, they should be dry before being placed in the Rumtopf. You'll get the best results by placing fruit inside the Rumtopf in the following order:

...Strawberries: Wash, remove the stems and halve large ones
...Cherries: Wash, remove stems, and use with or without the pits.
...Raspberries and/or Blackberries: Sort carefully, but do not wash.
...Red Currant Berries: Wash well and remove from stem with a fork.
...Apricots and/or Peaches: Scald for 1 or 2 minutes, peel and pit, and cut in quarters.
...Melons: Peel, remove seeds and cut in cubes.
...Plums: Wash well, remove stems, cut in half, and use with or without skin or pits.
...Pears: Peel, cut in 4 or 8 slices, simmer in mixture of sugar and water, then remove from mixture.
...Grapes: Wash well and remove from stem.
...Pineapples: Remove the rind and center core, and cut in cubes.

Procedure: On each pound of fruit, evenly sprinkle 1/2 pound of fine sugar, let soak for at least one hour, then place in the Rumtopf.

Cover the fruit with rum, about 1" above the fruit. As you add the next fruit, keep topping off with rum. After the last fruit has been added, place a dish over it to keep the fruit fully immersed in the rum. To avoid loss of aroma or the evaporation of the rum, place cellophane across the top, under the lid. Keep the Rumtopf in a cool place for three months, which allows it to ferment. (Check it occasionally to make sure that there is sufficient rum to keep the mixture covered; add more rum when necessary.) It will then be ready for you to enjoy. If you replenish or top off fruit, be sure to add more rum to keep it immersed, and, for best taste, allow 3 more months (or at least 2 months) for fermentation before using."

You are cordially invited to attend . . .

ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

at the Weber Blaess School in Saline

On Sunday, December 2nd
Shows at 3 p. m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Come see local Saline students reenact a traditional one-room school Christmas program – songs, readings, skits, refreshments & a visit from old St. Nick in the authentically decorated Weber Blaess schoolhouse.

Tickets available October 1st at:
Saline Community Education, Union School 200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline, MI 48176 734-429-8020
www.salinecommunityeducation.com
Saline Chamber of Commerce 141 E. Michigan Ave., Saline 734-429-4494

Adults $10 Students & Children $5

Sponsored by Saline Historic Preservation Foundation with proceeds to benefit the Weber Blaess School.

SALINE, MICHIGAN

One-Room School Holiday Program at Weber Blaess

Turn the calendar back to the 1940s and the week after Thanksgiving. The students at the Weber Blaess One-Room School are bustling with anticipation. They are very excited, because this is the time of year that they will begin preparing for the highlight of the school term, the annual Holiday Program. Every single pupil participates in the program. Each student must decide what he or she will be performing for the program, individually or in a group – a skit, a poem, a reading, a song or maybe even a recitation. They practice in school and at home because they want to do their best. Everyone in the community will be attending – neighbors, parents, friends, and relatives. In the weeks ahead, they are also very busy making decorations for the school; so it will look just right for the event.

Today, more than 65 years later, the Weber Blaess One-Room School is again alive with that same spirit of the '40s. That's right. Local students are beginning to prepare to re-enact the Weber Blaess One-Room School Holiday Program for the community. They are busy practicing their acts and making decorations. The program will be held at the school located at 525 Woodland Drive, Saline on Sunday, December 2nd. There will be three shows to choose from, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. Each show, lasting 1 hour, will be filled with entertainment, light refreshments, and maybe even a visit from old St. Nick himself.

The event is being sponsored by the Saline Historic Preservation Foundation with proceeds benefiting their ongoing programs and restoration. Tickets will cost $10 for adults and $5 for students and children. Tickets are available starting October 1st through Saline Community Education, 734-429-8020 Ext 1.

If you are looking for a unique traditional activity this holiday season, this program will meet your expectations. It will be entertaining for people of all ages, families, and for those who remember the one-room days. It will bring back many fond memories of those days gone by. Help Saline celebrate its past by attending the One-Room School Holiday Program!

For further information call 734-429-8020 or 734-429-5922.

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET GIFT SHOP

Your Holiday Shopping Place for Unique Gifts

Visit: www.washtenawhistory.org
Information: 734-662-9092

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 96

ANOTHER ANN ARBOR
by Carol Gibson & Lola Jones
available in WCHS Museum Shop
see page 11 inside

SUNDAY • 2 PM
OCTOBER 21, 2007

"UNBUILT BUILDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN"

SPEAKER • FRED MAYER

UNIVERSITY COMMONS
ASA GRAY DRIVE
ANN ARBOR 48105

INFORMATION • 734.662.9092

MEMBER 2007
NANCY KROHN
905 ROBIN RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-3008

Program Schedule 2007-08

Sunday, October 21 • 2 pm
UNBUILT BUILDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Speaker: *Fred Mayer*
Location: University Commons, Asa Gray Drive, AA

Sunday, Nov. 18 • 2 pm
ART IN WASHTENAW COUNTY CEMETERIES
Speaker: *Wystan Stevens*
Location: Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker Branch

Sunday, February 17, 2008 • 2 pm
ANN ARBOR BUILDINGS AND ARCHITECTURE
Speaker: *Anita Toews*
Location: Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard

Sunday, March 16 • 2 pm
WORKING WOMEN'S HISTORY—PRIOR TO 1918
Speaker: *Susan Nenadic*
Location: Ann Arbor District Library Downtown branch

Sunday, April 20 • 2 pm
RESTORATION OF ST. HELENA LIGHTHOUSE WITH SCOUT TROOP 4
Speaker: *Dick Moehn*
Location: Glacier Hills Retirement Community—Hanson Room, AA

May 2008
WCHS ANNUAL MEETING
Potluck supper & election of officers. Date & location to be determined

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.